

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 6, line 24, and ending on page 7, line 9, as follows:

The bit signal is detected from the video output signal of the apparatus 118 by the bit reading portion 114 (step 1). When the bit signal is detected, the detected bit signal is compared with the multiplexed bit signal (multiplexed by synthesizing portion 111) (that is, they are compared by CPU 115) (step 2). When the bit signal cannot be detected or when the detected bit signal continuously coincides with ~~and~~ the set bit signal ~~continuously coincide~~ by a length of a few fields, the video switching apparatus is set to the recording mode (by using CPU 115, video input selecting portion 102, etc.) (steps 3 and 5). When the detected bit signal and the set bit signal do not coincide, the video switching apparatus 1011 is set to the reproducing mode (sets 3 and 4).